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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™



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BATTLE ROYAL

48 PAGE SPECIAL!

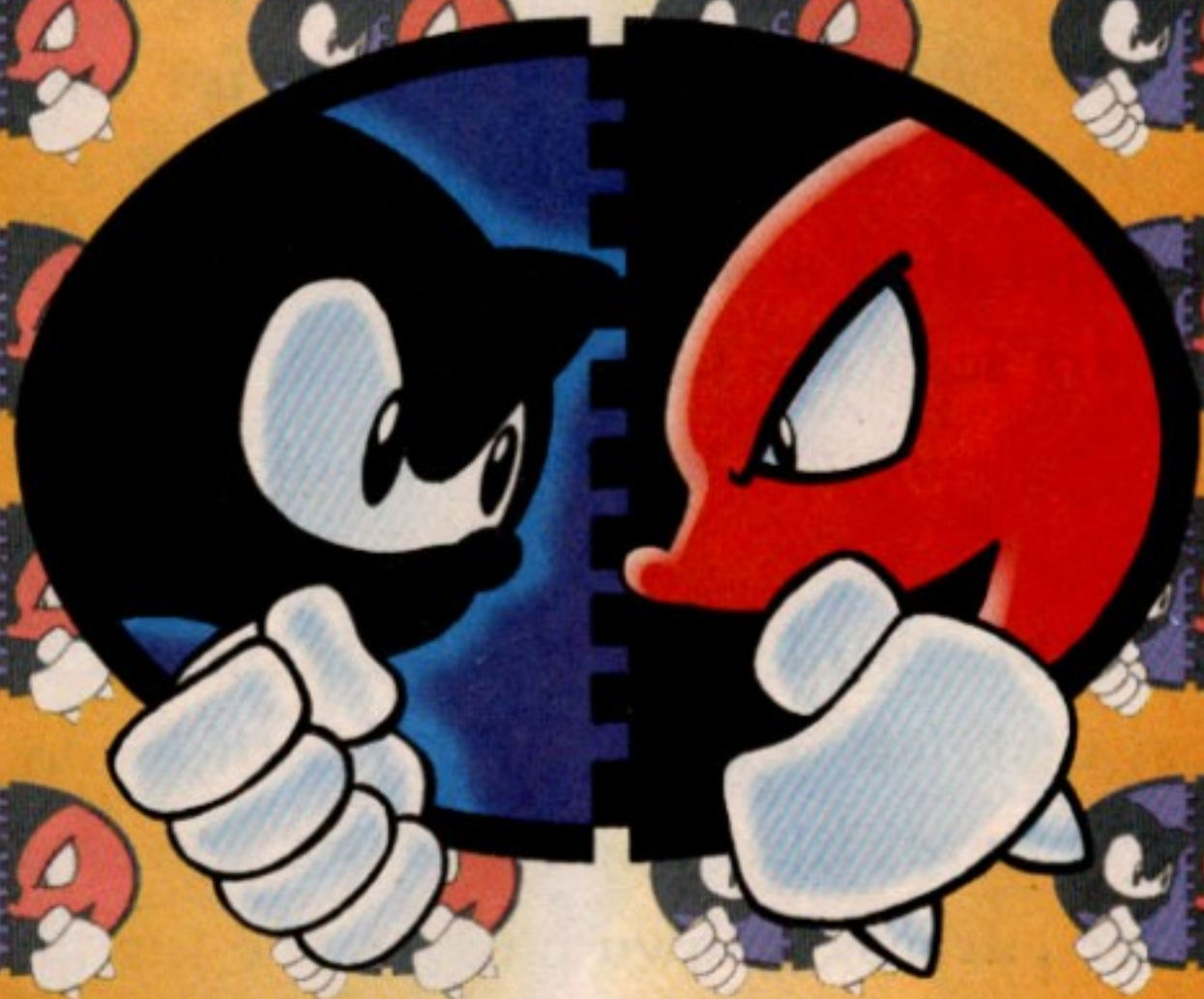


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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

BATTLE ROYAL



"BATTLE ROYAL!"

Kent Taylor & Ken Pender-Writers, Sam Maxwell-Penciler,
Jim Amash-Inker, Karl Bollers-Colorist, Jeff Powell-Letterer

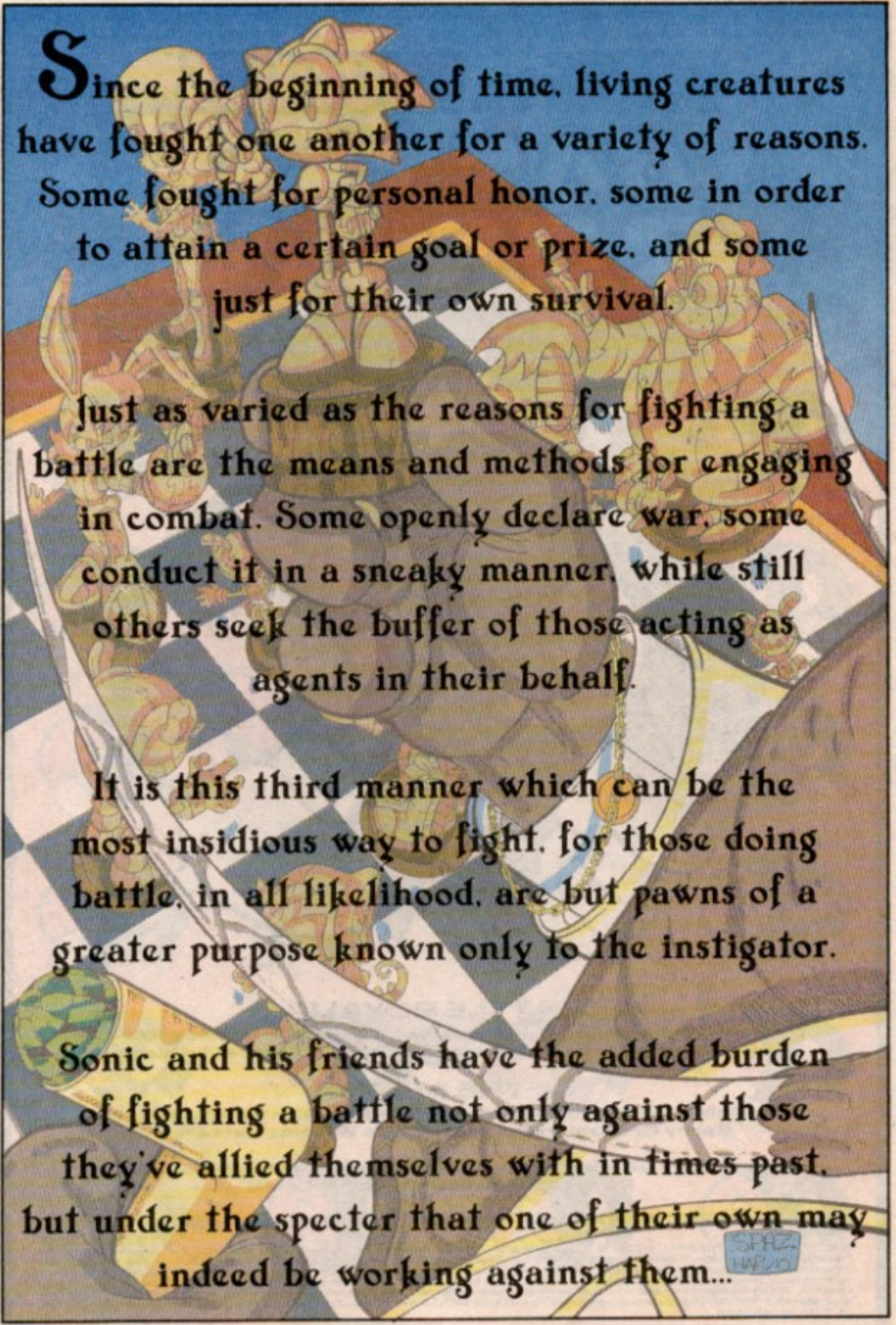
"THE MAP"

Tom Rolston-Writer, Dave Manak-Penciler, Rich Koslowski-Inker,
Barry Grossman-Colorist, Vickie Williams-Letterer

J. Freddy Gabrie-Editor, Victor Gopelick-Managing Editor,
Richard Goldwater-Editor-in-Chief

SPECIAL THANKS to Susan Suarez and Helen Bell

SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL No. 1, 1997. Published by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Chief Officer, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Don Goldsher, Single copies \$2.00 in the U.S., \$2.50 in Canada. SEGA and GENESIS are registered with the U.S. patent and trademark office. Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. © 1997 SEGA of America, Inc. unless otherwise noted. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of SEGA of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Printed in Canada.



Since the beginning of time, living creatures have fought one another for a variety of reasons. Some fought for personal honor, some in order to attain a certain goal or prize, and some just for their own survival.

Just as varied as the reasons for fighting a battle are the means and methods for engaging in combat. Some openly declare war, some conduct it in a sneaky manner, while still others seek the buffer of those acting as agents in their behalf.

It is this third manner which can be the most insidious way to fight, for those doing battle, in all likelihood, are but pawns of a greater purpose known only to the instigator.

Sonic and his friends have the added burden of fighting a battle not only against those they've allied themselves with in times past, but under the specter that one of their own may indeed be working against them...

SPAZ
1990

EVER AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD, THE GRAND SPECTACLE THAT IS THE FLOATING ISLAND ALWAYS SPARKS AWE, EVEN IN MINDS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS OF FUTURE EXISTENCE...

STILL, TODAY'S JOURNEY, FILLED WITH PROMISE OF NEW PROSPERITY FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IS NEVERTHELESS LADEN WITH ANXIETY AS IT WAS INITIATED BY A DISTRESS CALL...

Hmm... I WONDER...
WEE! WE HAVE ZEE TRIUMPH
OR ZEE DOOM WHEN WE
ONCE AGAIN VISIT KNUCKLES'
HOME?

C'MON, ANTOINE! IT
CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE
GOOD NEWS WHEN ROTOR
ARRIVED AT OUR CAMPFIRE
POW WOW* TO TELL US KNUX
WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS
QUEST!

*THE "POW WOW" AND RETRIEVAL
OF KING ACORN'S SWORD
HAPPENED IN SONIC # 46. -- J.M.M.



UNFORTUNATELY
KNUX'S RADIOED
MESSAGE ALSO
SAID THE ISLAND WAS
UNDER SIEGE...



...AND AFTER
ALL HE'S DONE
FOR US, THE LEAST
WE OWE HIM IS A
LITTLE SUPPORT!



BUT AFTER A LONG
AND SEEMINGLY
FRUITLESS EXPEDITION...

HOW COME
THERE'S NO SIGN
OF KNUX OR A
BATTLE?



BATTLE ROYAL

PART ONE

Dulcy The Dragon

Tails

Princess Sally Acorn

Sonic The Hedgehog

Rotor

Antoine D'Coolette

Bunnie Rabbit

THAT'S CAUSE
WE JUST FINISHED
DEFEATING OUR
ENEMIES... THANKS
TO THE MYSTIC
POWER OF THE
KING'S SWORD!

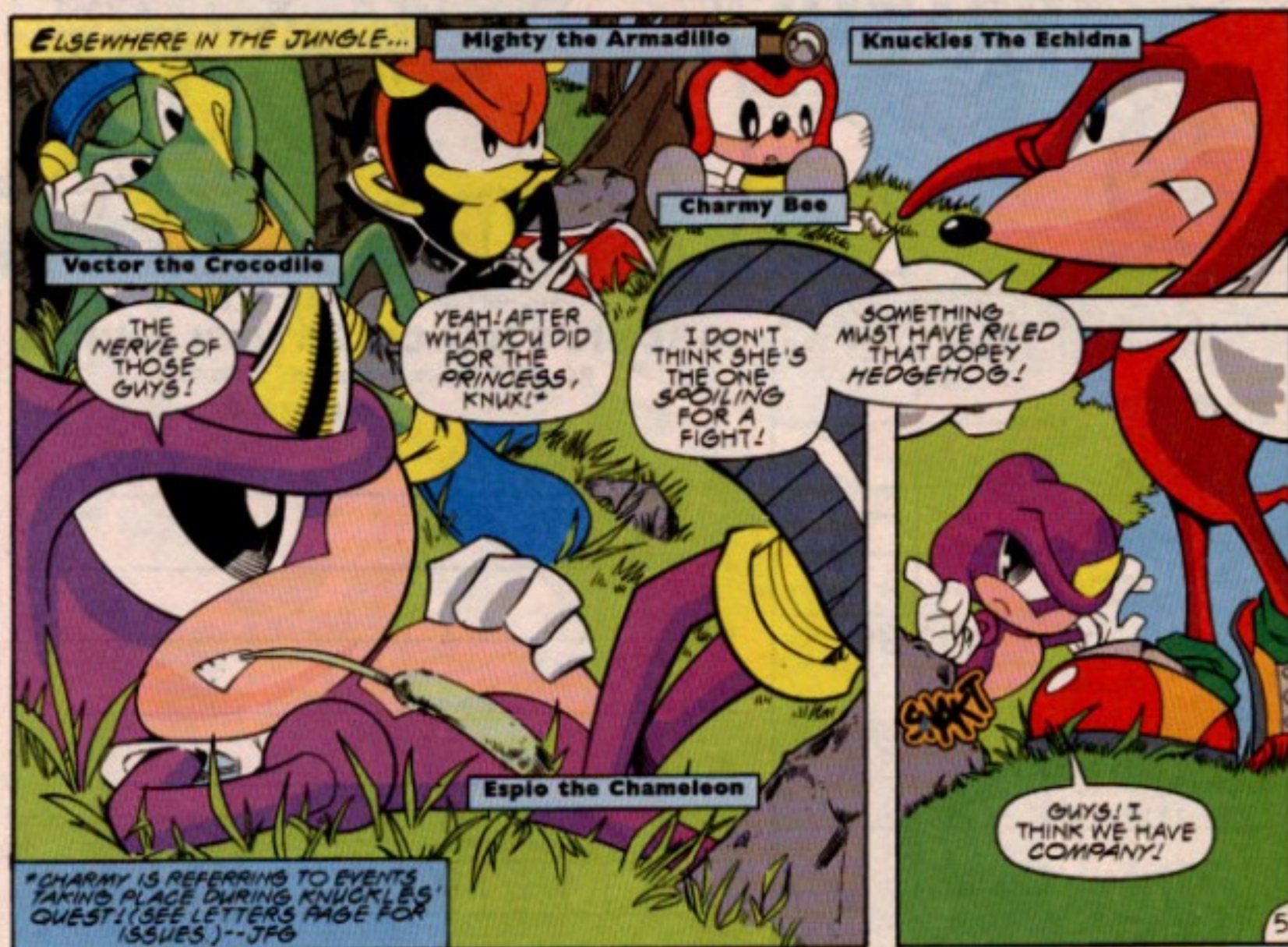
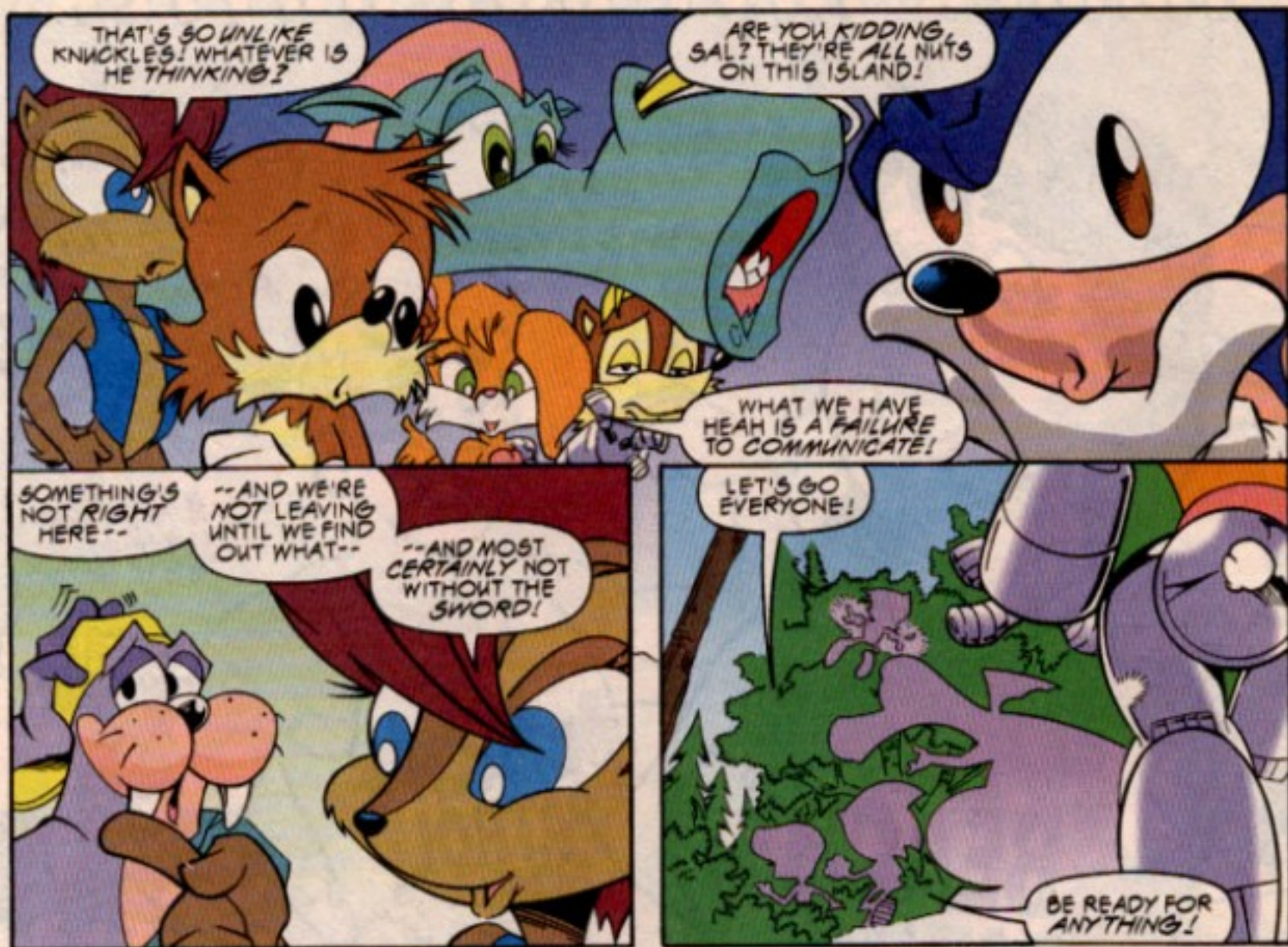
IN FACT, IT
WAS SO SWEET
WE'VE GOT ORDERS
FROM KNUX TO SEND
YOU PACKIN' WITH-
OUT IT!

BUT... WHAT
ABOUT KNUX'S
SOLENN VOW?

VOW, SHMOW!
LOOKS LIKE WHAT
I'VE ALWAYS SAID
IS STILL TRUE-- OL'
POINTY HEAD CAN'T
BE TRUSTED!













BATTLE ROYAL

PART TWO

THIS IS IT, YOU FINKS!



I CAN SEE BOYS WILL BE BOYS!
THIS CALLS FOR SAYER HEADS!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I REALLY HATE--
--IT'S CHISELERS WHO GO BACK ON THEIR WORD!

YOU'VE LOST IT! YOU'VE TOTALLY LOST IT!
EITHER THAT-- OR YOU'VE ONE BIG DEATH WISH!

BAMF

YOU CAN'T KICK US FREEDOM FIGHTERS AROUND AND GET AWAY WITH IT!

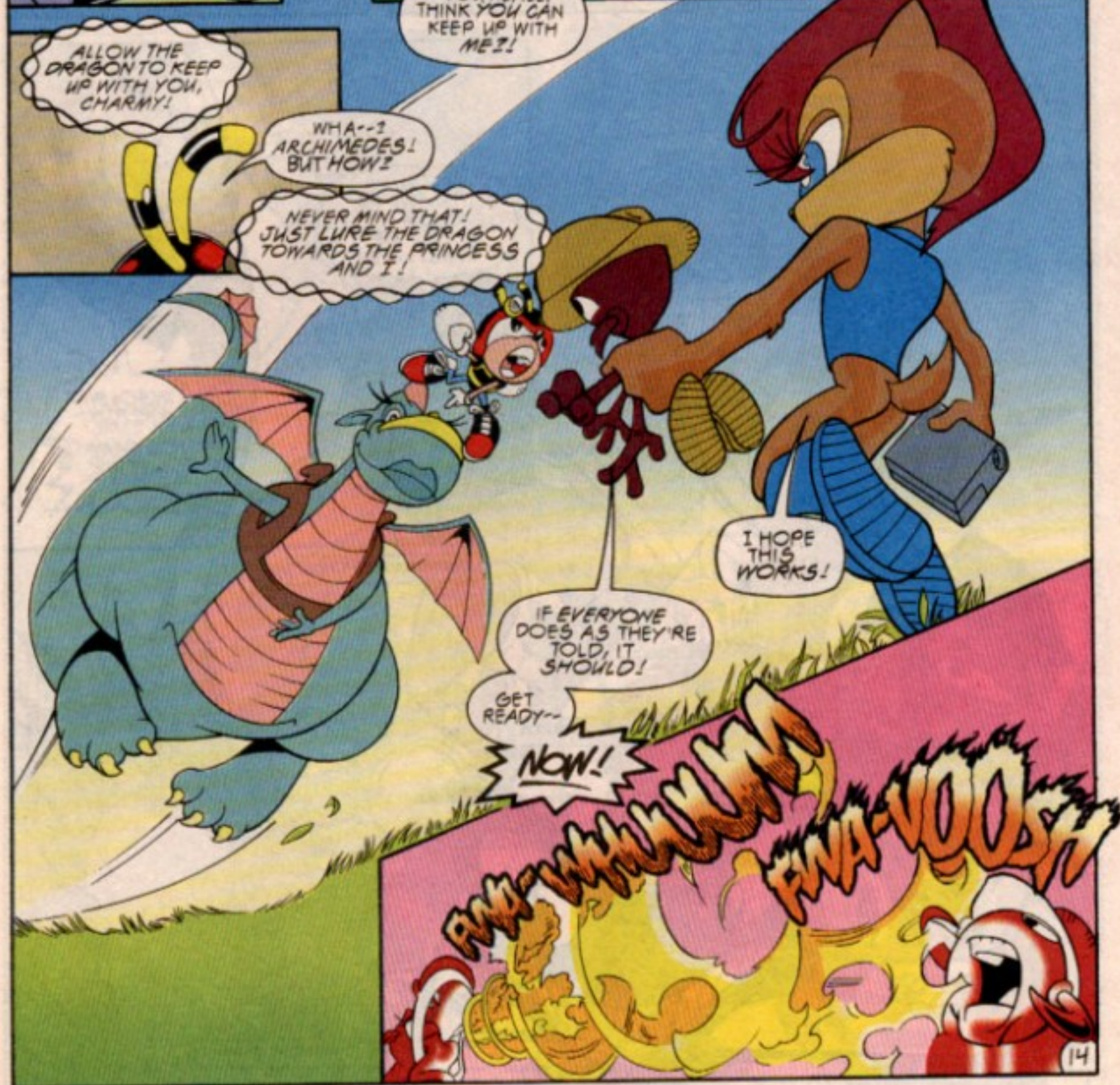
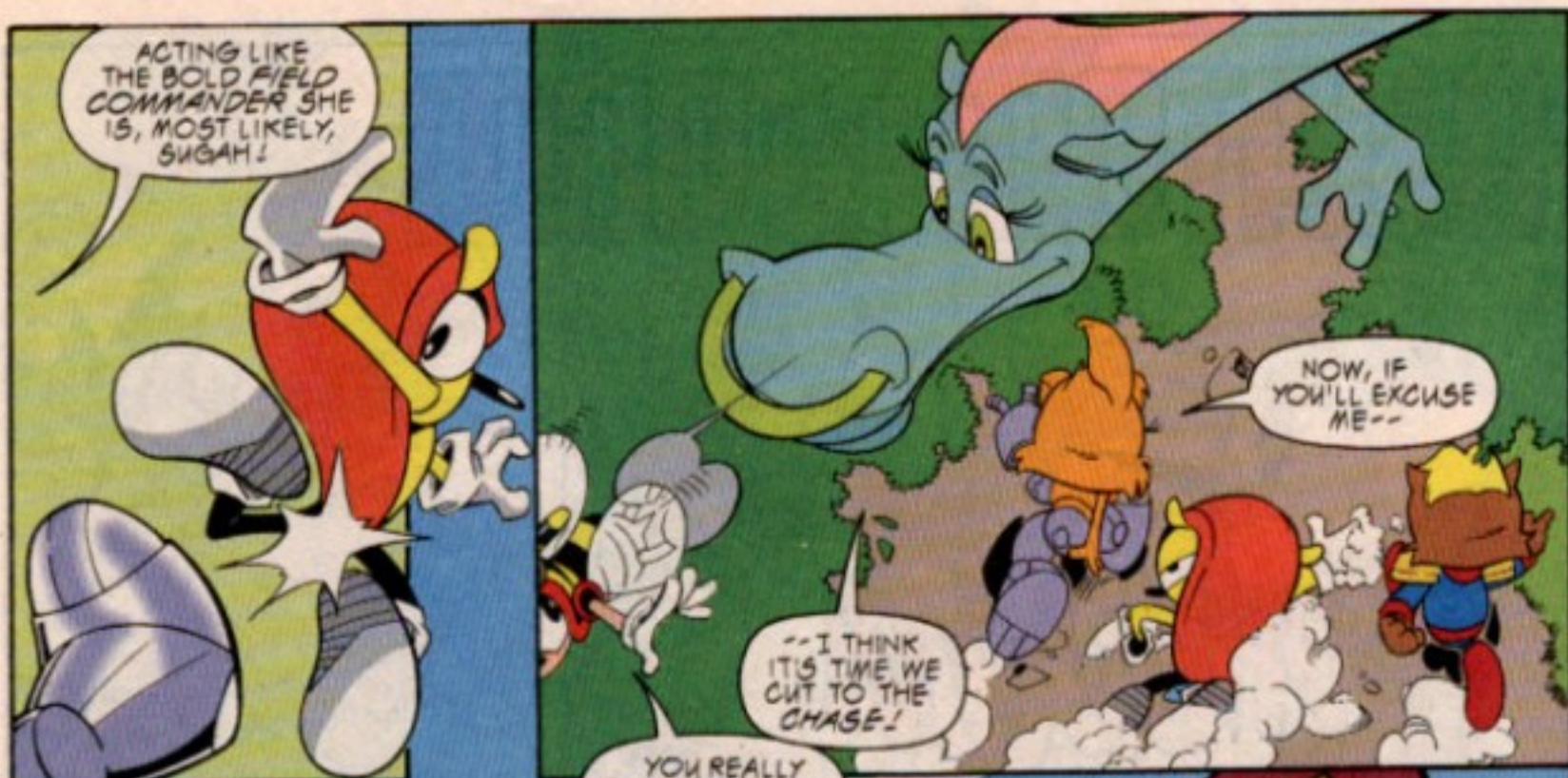
SONIC! WAIT!
OH, THIS IS HOPELESS!

YO, BOY! YOU BE THE ONE WHO DISSED US FIRST!









FWATOOOMTTOOM

BA-DHUUUM

AT LAST--

VICTORY IS MINE!

SAVOR THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS, MY MENACING MINIONS!

BEFORE LONG, THE WORLD SHALL BE OURS!

DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF OURSELVES?

INSOLENT WRETCH!
YOU DARE DOUBT MY POWER?!

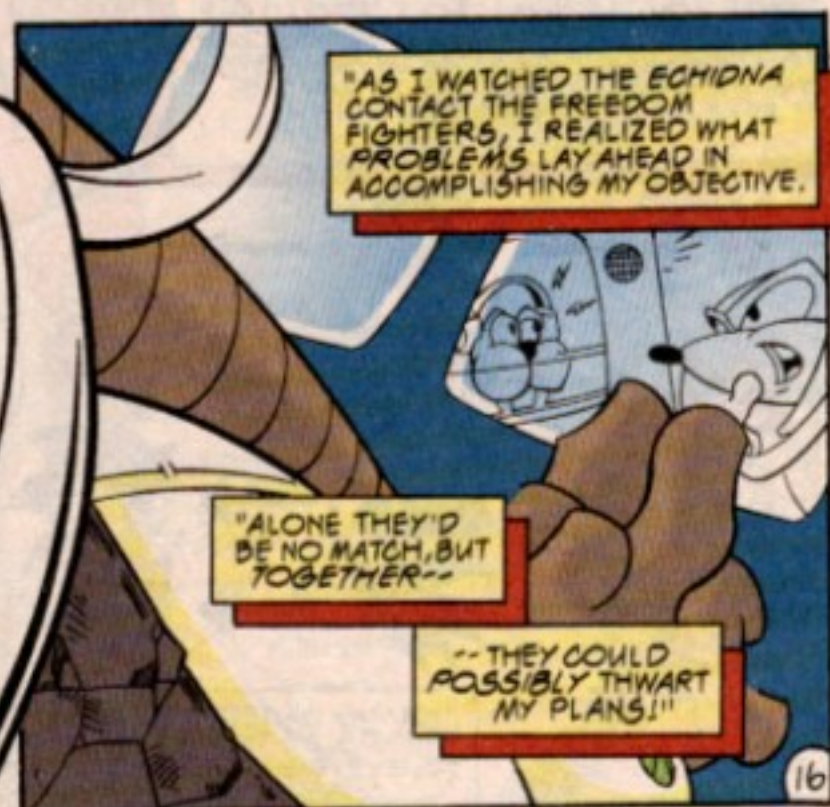
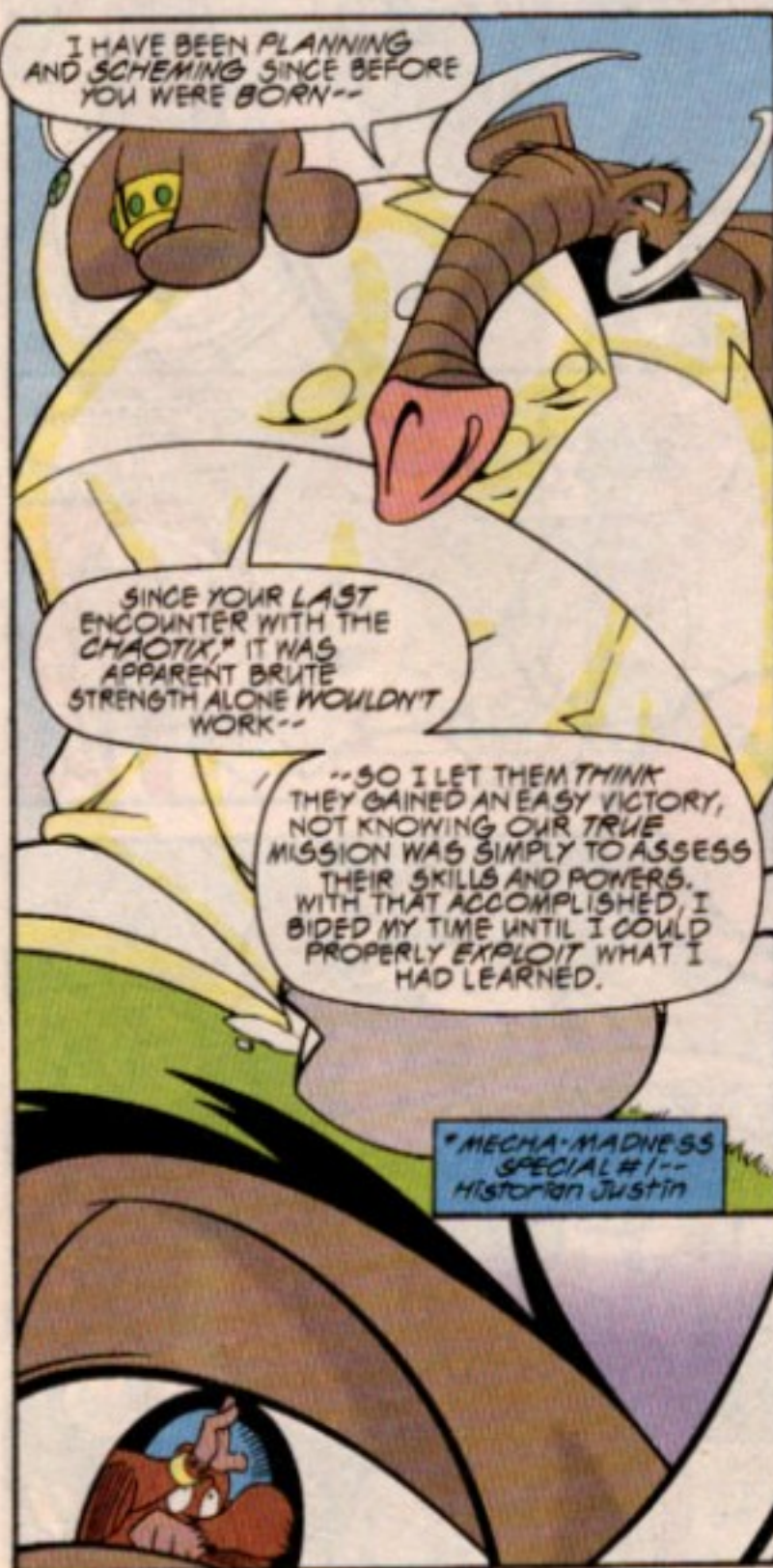
Mammoth Mogul

Sgt. Simian

Lightning Lynx

Flying Frog

Predator Hawk



"THAT'S WHY I SEIZED THE MOMENT
MAKING USE OF MY VAST PSYCHIC
ABILITIES TO ALTER THE REALITIES
OF MY UNWITTING Pawns..."

"WHAT NEITHER THE WALRUS
OR ECHIDNA REALIZED WAS
THAT THEY WERE WATCHING
IMAGES GENERATED THROUGH
MY THOUGHTWAVES..."

I CONTROL
THE HORIZONTAL--
I CONTROL THE
VERTICAL--

--AND THE ISLAND'S
UNDER SIEGE AGAIN, SO
FOR NOW...WE'RE KEEPING
THE SWORD!

HOLD FAST!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO HELP!

...AND YOU'VE TAKEN
TOO LONG TO RETURN
THE SWORD--WE'RE
COMING FOR IT AND
YOU!

WHAT ARE
YOU JABBERING
ABOUT?

"THERE WAS STILL DANGER THAT COOLER
HEADS WOULD PREVAIL, SO I CREATED THE
ILLUSION OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME
AS MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND THE CHAOTIX, IN ORDER TO FAN THE
FLAMES OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE
OPPOSING SIDES..."

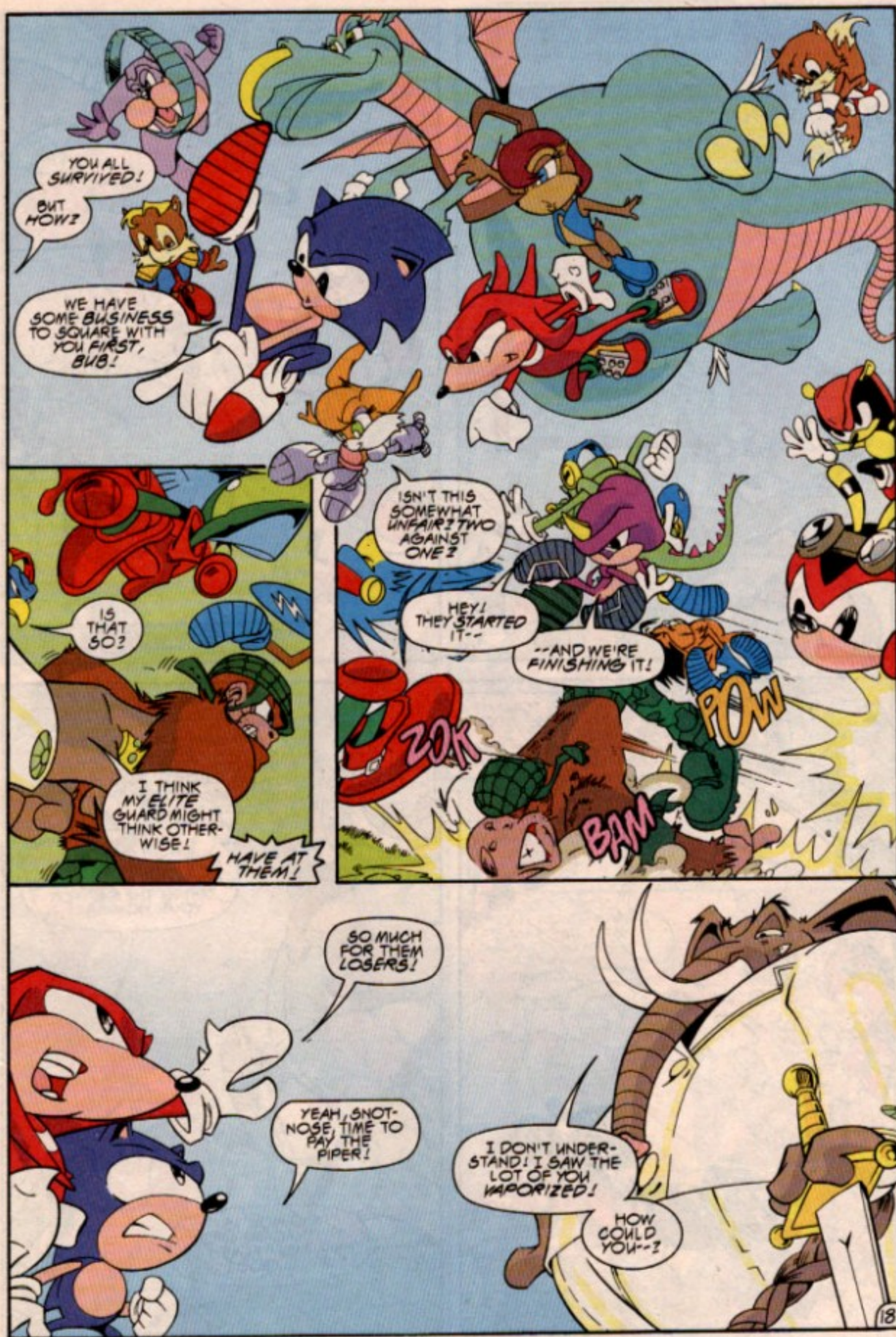


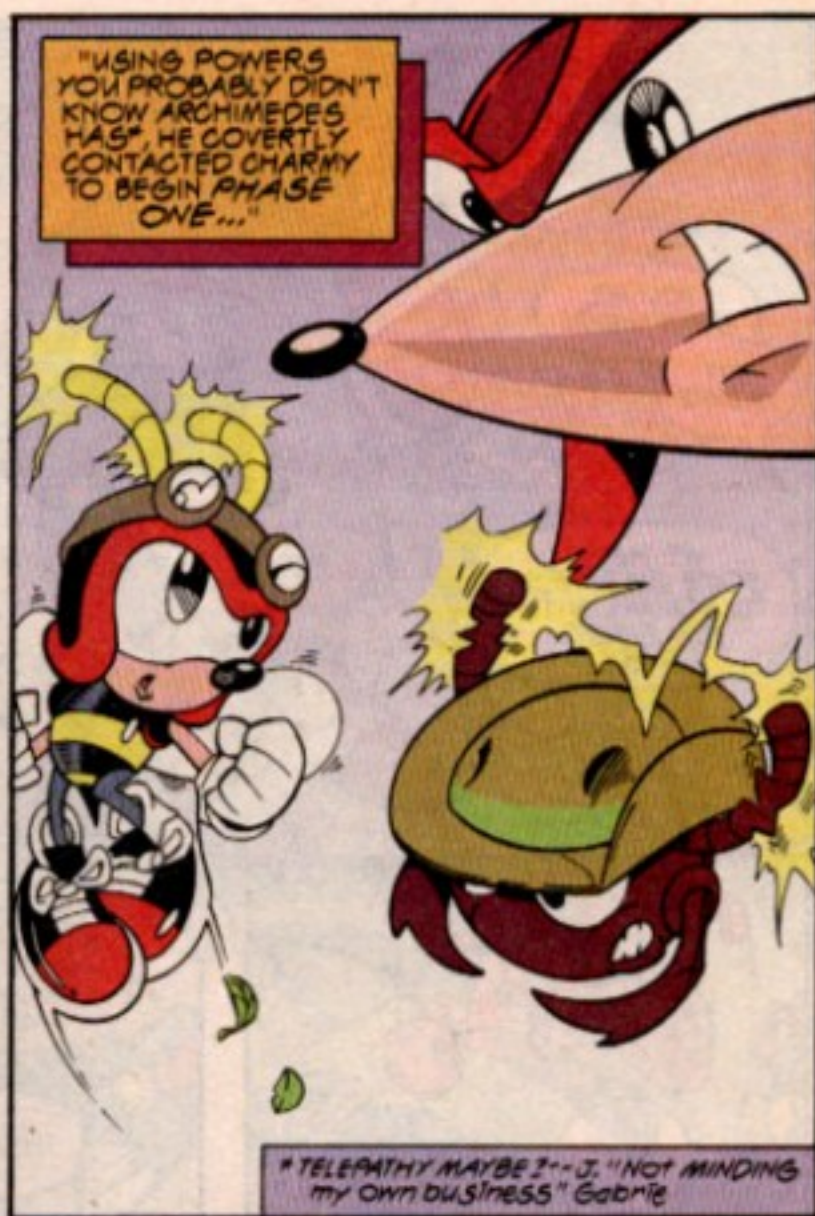
--ALLOWING US
TO WATCH FROM THE
SIDELINES WHILE
THEY BATTLED AMONGST
THEMSELVES!

YEP! THAT
WAS QUITE
THE PLAN,
MAN!

THAT
VOICE--!

"HAVING BAILED THE HEDGEHOG AND
FRIENDS, WE THEN MADE THE CHAOTIX
BELIEVE THE WORST CONCERNING THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS--"





"'CAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO YOUR HOMEWORK! MIGHTY SAID THAT THE POWERS OF THE NEARBY ARCHIMEDES HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE"...

"...BUT THE CHAOTIX KNOW THAT ARCHY HAS TO TOUCH YOU TO DO HIS VANISHING ROUTINE!"

"AND YOU MAY HAVE DISGUISED YOUR SOLDIERS BUT YOU DIDN'T DISGUISE THEIR POWERS..."

"EVERYONE KNOWS AH ONLY HAVE SUPER STRENGTH IN MUH LEFT ARM!"

* CHECK OUT PAGE 4, PANEL 5 & KNUX'S MINI-SERIES #3!

* CHECK OUT PAGE 6, PANEL 3.

"AND WHILE YOUR GUY WAS QUICK, HE WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE SPEED OF THE BLUE DOOFBALL!"

* PAGE 6, PANEL 6

AND HOW COME ONLY FOUR OF SIX CHAOTIX ATTACKED US?!

AND HOW COME SEVEN F.F.'S LANDED BUT ONLY FOUR ATTACKED US?!

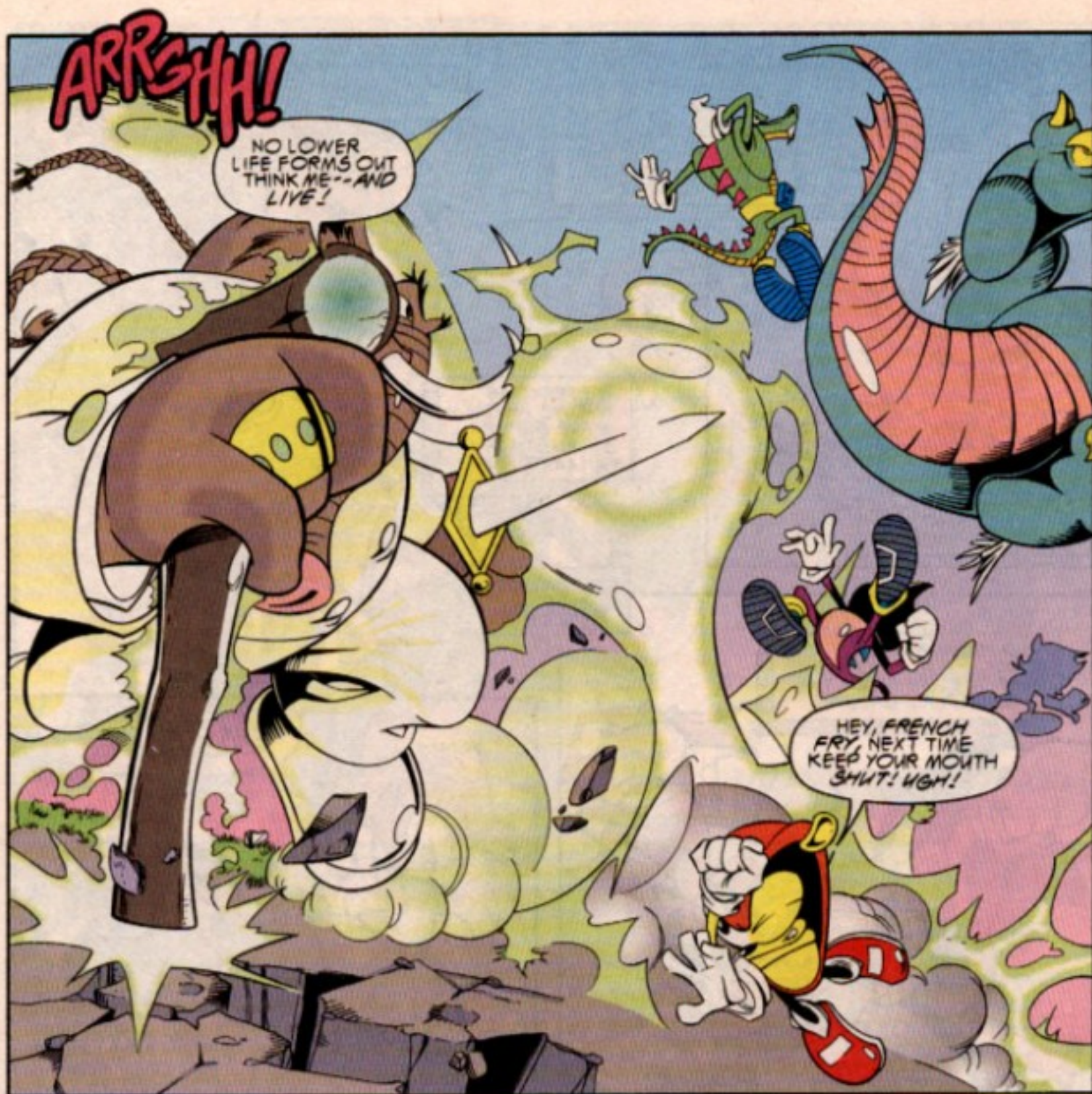
ALSO, NO WAY MIGHT WOULD HAVE ATTACKED ME WITHOUT TALKING FIRST --OR AT LEAST SAYING "HI"!

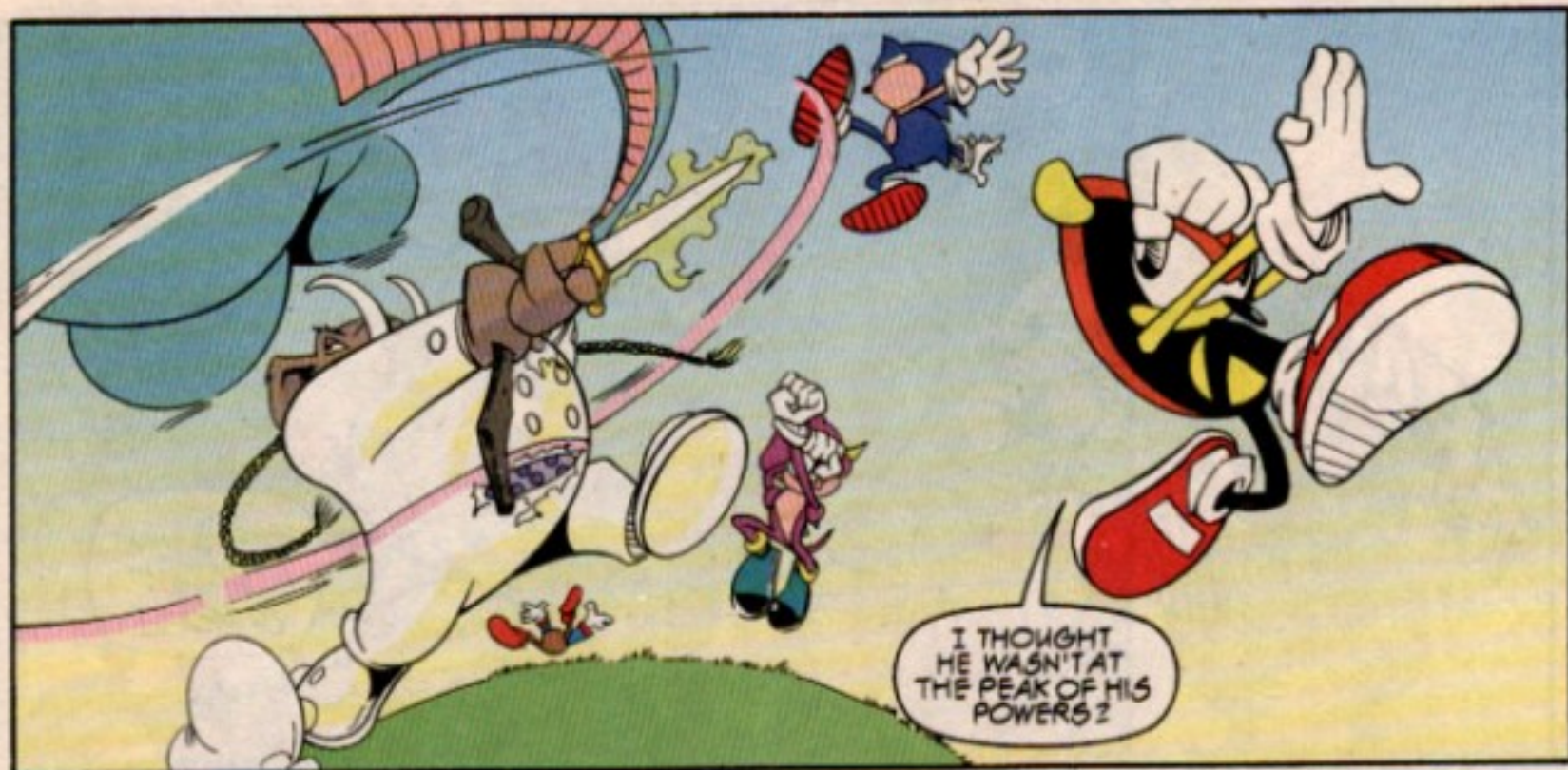
Y'SEE TALL, DARK AND HAIRY, WE'RE OLD PALS!*

ZO, BIG JUMBO, YOU ARE NOT ONLY ZEE BIG PERSON, BUT ALSO ZEE BIG FOOL!

NOW THAT YOUR SCHEME IS KAPUT, HAND OVER ZEE SWORD AND YOU WON'T BE HURT!

* WHEN & WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN? CHECK OUT FUTURE ISSUES OF SONIC FOR THE STORY.





CRASH

WOW! BRING
TWO CHAOS EMERALDS
TOGETHER...

AND
THAT'S WHAT
YOU GET...
UTTER
CHAOS!

PRETTY SMART--
TAKING A CHANCE
ONE CHAOS EMERALD
MIGHT BLOW UP
ANOTHER!

IT WAS A
DESPERATE
GAMBLE AT
BEST!

ALRIGHT!
HE BLEW HIM
OUT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

DON'T SWEAT
IT, SHORTY, IT PAID
OFF!

AND IT
DID LEAVE
US WITH
THE SWORD
SO...

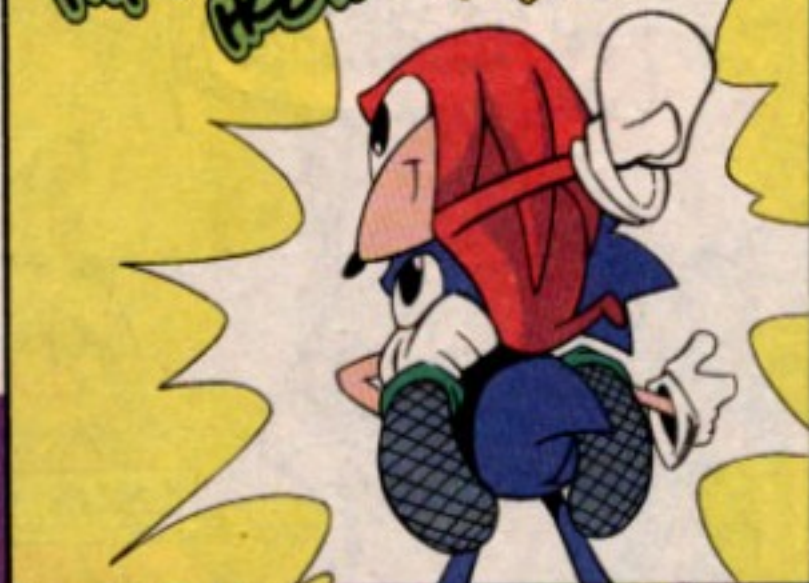
AS PER MY
SOLEMN VOW, I
HUMBLY MAKE
GOOD MY
PROMISE!

AND FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND FORTI-
TUDE ON BEHALF OF
THE REALM...

I HEARBY DULY
KNIGHT YOU! YOU ARE
THIS ISLAND'S GUARDIAN,
BUT WHEN IN A KNOTHOLE,
YOU ARE NOW AND FOREVER-
MORE... SIR KNUCKLES!



HIP HIP
HURRAY!



ALAS, DURING TIMES OF WAR,
SMALL VICTORIES CAN ONLY
SIRE SMALL CELEBRATIONS,
GIVING WAY TO DIRE ISSUES
AT HAND...

EAGER TO COMPLETE THEIR
FINAL GOAL, THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS RACE HOME TO
SAVE THEIR KING...



...NEVER SUSPECTING THAT
WHICH AWAITS THEM IN
THEIR SECRET SANCTUARY!



ROTOR, CONTACT UNCLE
CHUCK! WITH HIS HELP,
I'M SURE WE CAN FINALLY
RETRIEVE THE CROWN OF
ACORNS! I'LL BEGIN MY RE-
SEARCH IN MY HUT WITH
NICOLE.



PRINCESS
SALLY...!
COME
QUICK,
CHILD!

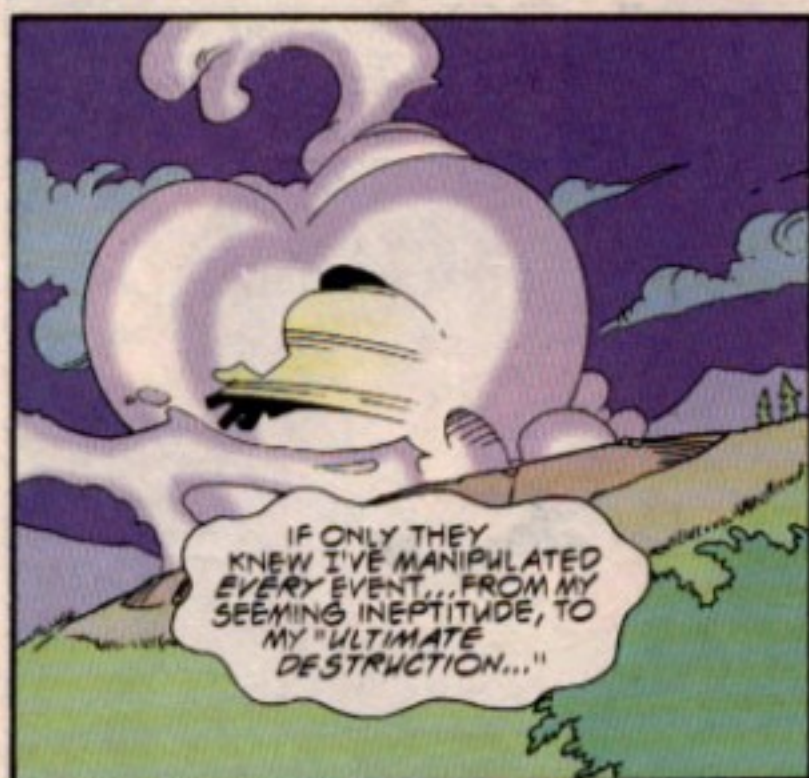


* SEE SONIC #47 FOR THE LOW-DOWN.

EPilogue:

AND WHILE A RAY OF HOPE SEEMS TO EMIT FROM THAT FORMER REALM, IT MAY JUST BE CLOUDED BY THE SWIRLING MISTS OF AN UNKNOWN MYSTERIOUS REALM...

WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE... TO THINK THEY COULD OUT-WIT ME...



KING ACORN RESTORED TO HEALTH? LOOKS LIKE IT'S COUNTDOWN TO ROBOTNIK'S DESTRUCTION, OR IS IT? THE ANSWER IS ENDGAME IN SONIC # 50. SEE LETTERS PAGE FOR DETAILS, AND WHAT OF MAMMOTH MOGUL? KEEP READING SONIC & KNUCKLES TO FIND OUT!!

BATTLE ROYAL

mail

Battle Royal Mail c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 419, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

J. Freddy Gabriele
Editor

In four weeks, get set for the premiere of **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4** the ongoing series, starting a new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite Guardian of the Floating Island. In a three-part epic, "LOST PARADISE"

reunites Knuckles with the one person he never, ever expected to see. But an even bigger problem occurs when the fabled city of **Echidnaopolis** reappears, posing a threat to the Floating Island's eco-system. Don't miss the echidna excitement with regulars Ken Penders, Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. In the tradition of the first three issues, every three-part story-arc will sport **triple-combo covers** by fan-fave Pat

'Spaz'ante along with inks by Ken Penders and colors by those maniacs at Heroic Age! Also look for a contest announcement in his letters page to commemorate his new ongoing series.

In other Mobius news, in one week "End Game"

continues. The stakes between Robotnik and the Freedom Fighters reaches a fever-pitch. The now-healthy King Acorn loses his daughter in an attack on Robotropolis, and Sonic is arrested as the culprit responsible. Sonic escapes to clear his name. The King orders none other than **Geoffrey St. John** to track him down. That's when things get nasty. Read "Escape to the Floating Island!" in **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #49**, on sale May 1997! Whatever you do, don't miss this one!

Look out for the next Sonic Special coming your way in four months time... **SONIC SPECIAL '97: A BRAVE NEW WORLD #1!** 'Nuff said!

FREDDY

P.S.: Attention! Attention! Mike Wallis' name was spelled incorrectly in the "SONIC BLAST" Special #1 credits page. Sorry, Mike.



SONIC #49
On sale MAY 1997

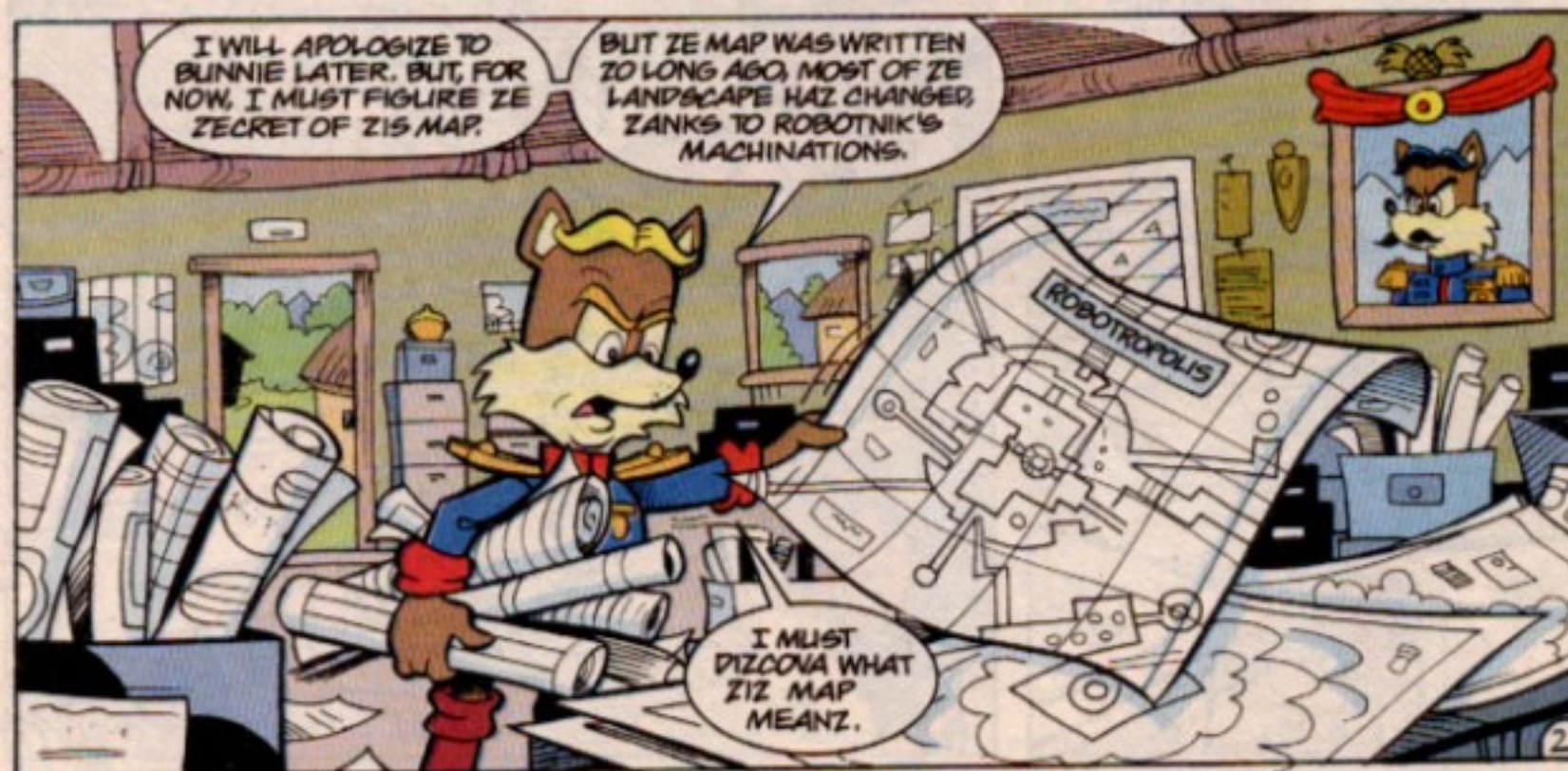
7 THE FLIGHT OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS A NEVER-ENDING ONE. EACH TRIES FINDING A WAY TO STOP ROBOTNIK'S TERRORIZING OF THE FOREST EVERY SINGLE DAY. TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION.

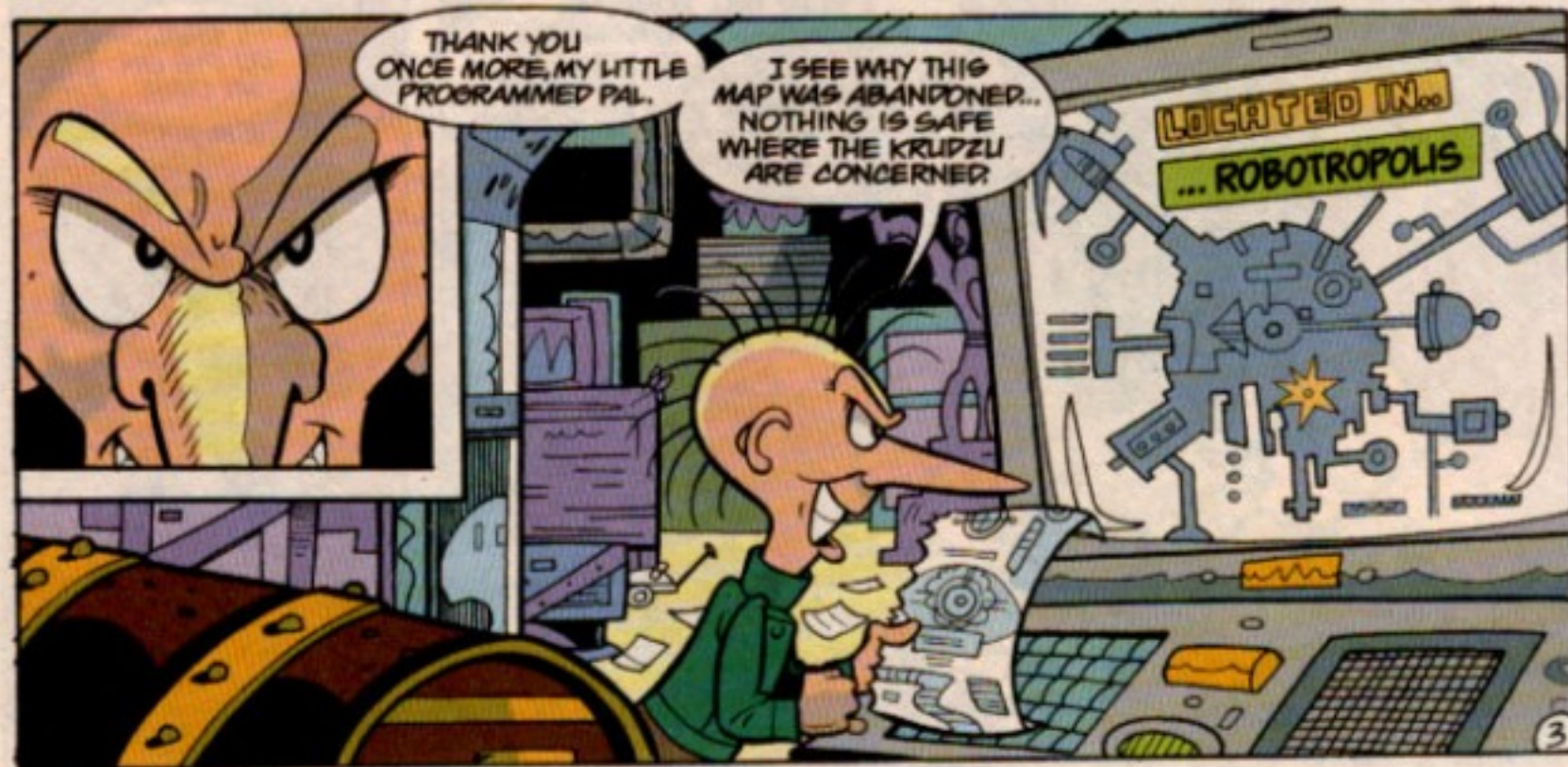
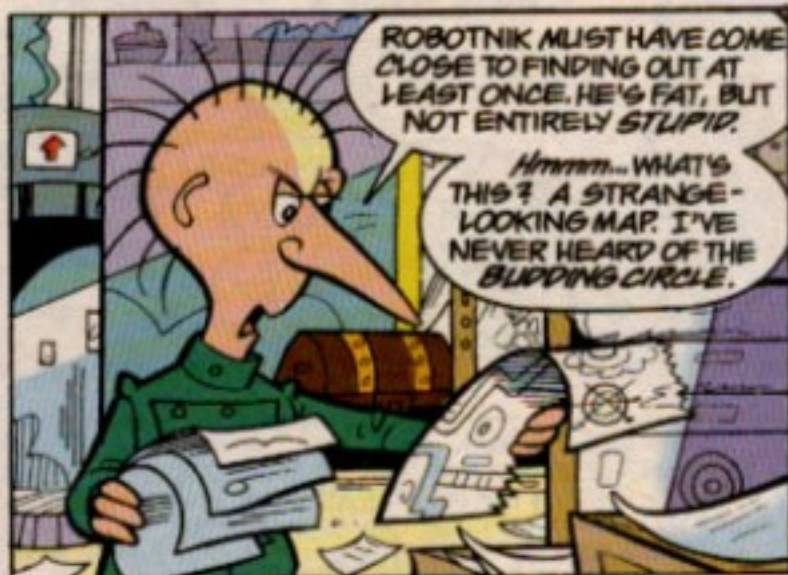
FROM THE
ANTOINE
FILES:

THE MAP

PART ONE







BOTH MAPS HAVE ONE COMPLETE ZIDE, THE X ON THE COMPLETE ZIDE IZ AT A PLACE CALLED BUDDING CIRCLE.

BUDDING CIRCLE WAS A ZECTION IN MOBOTROPOLIS. ROBOTNIK DESTROYED IT WIT HIZ WRETCHED KRUDZU, ORGANIC, METALLIC PLANTS THAT GROW FROM ZEEDS.*

* REDISCOVERED BY THE 'BOTS WAY BACK IN SONIC #1-- A FRED-A-PHANT NEVER FORGETS!

** AGAIN, SONIC #1-- J.F.G.

ZE GROUND AT BUDDING CIRCLE COULD NOT TAKE THE STRAIN AND COLLAPSED THEM DOWN INTO ZE EARTH.

AFTER DAT, ROBOTNIK TRIED USING DEM IN ZE GREAT FOREST, UNTIL WE DIZCOVERED THEIR ONLY WEAKNESS-- WATER! ** ZEN ZE KRUDZU WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN.

MAYBE DE FAT MAN IZ HIDING DOZ HORRID PLANTS DARE ? OR DE MAP TO FIND WHERE HE PUT DE REST OF DE ZEEDS ? OR MAYBE DE MAP LEADZ TO DE MOST POWERFUL OF POWER RINGS ?

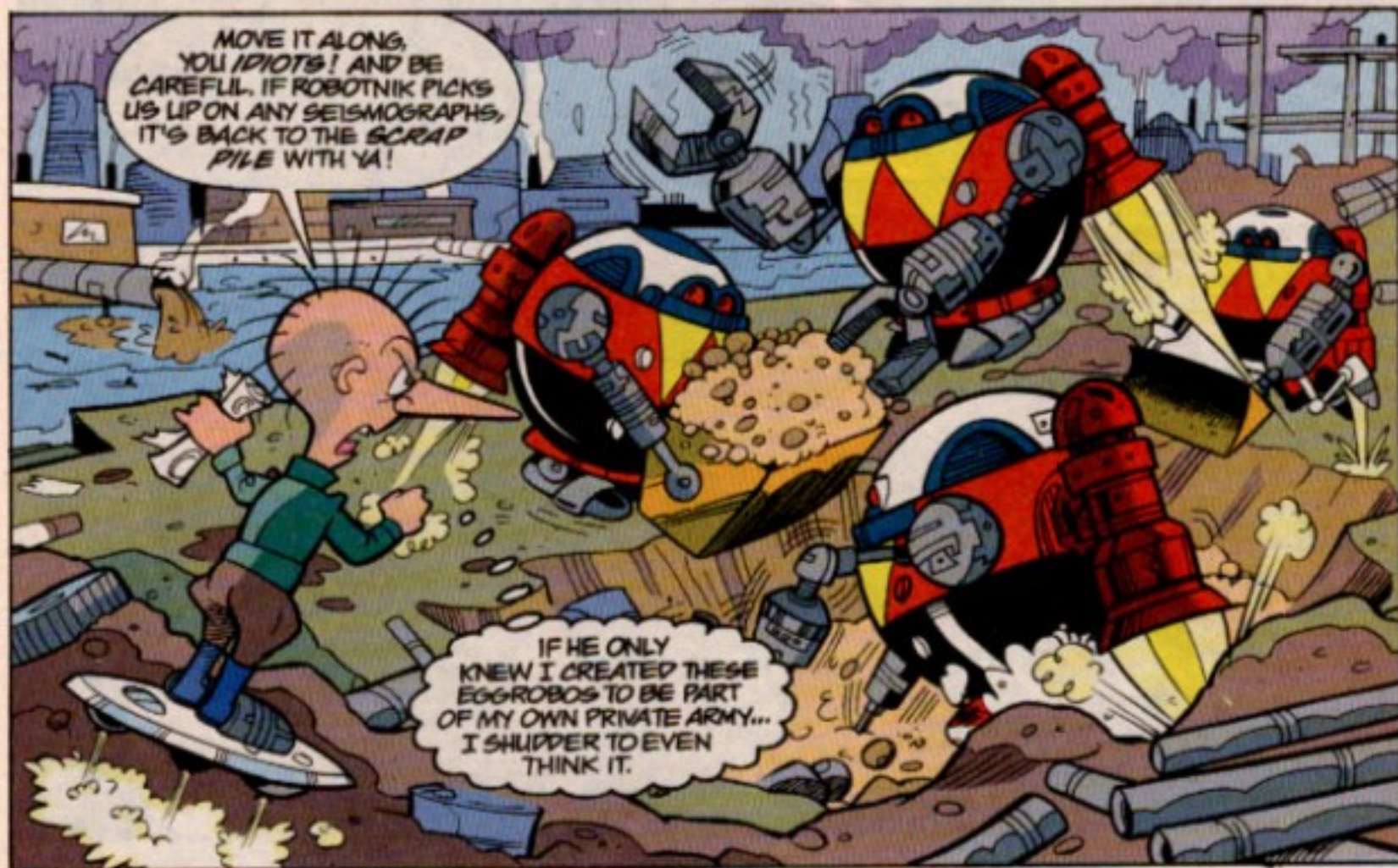
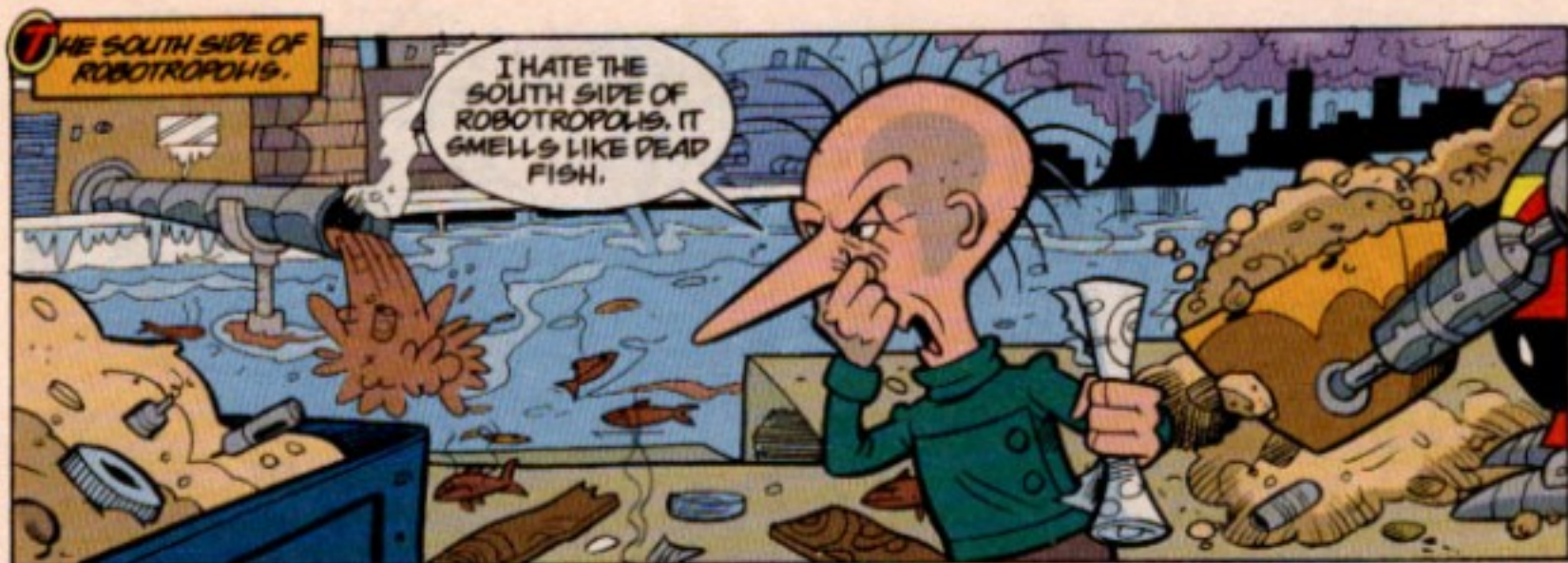
NONE DE LESS, I HAVE COORDINATES DAT WILL PUT ME NEAR ONE MILE OF WHERE BUDDING CIRCLE LIZED TO BE. I'M SURE DE OLD WELL IZ NOT DARE, BUT I MUST TRY.

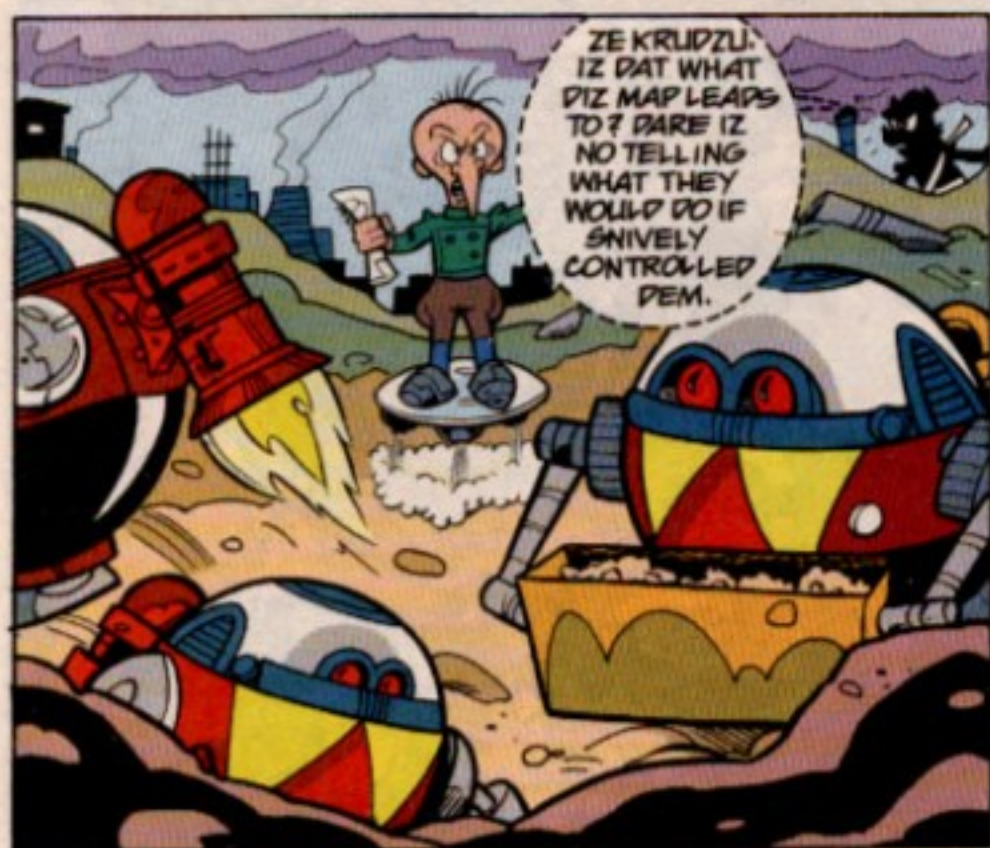
WHAT PROBLEMS COULD I HAVE ? ZE ZOUTH ZIDE OF ROBOTROPOLIS IZ A STINKY ZEWER. NO ONE IN DARE RIGHT MIND WOULD GO DARE.

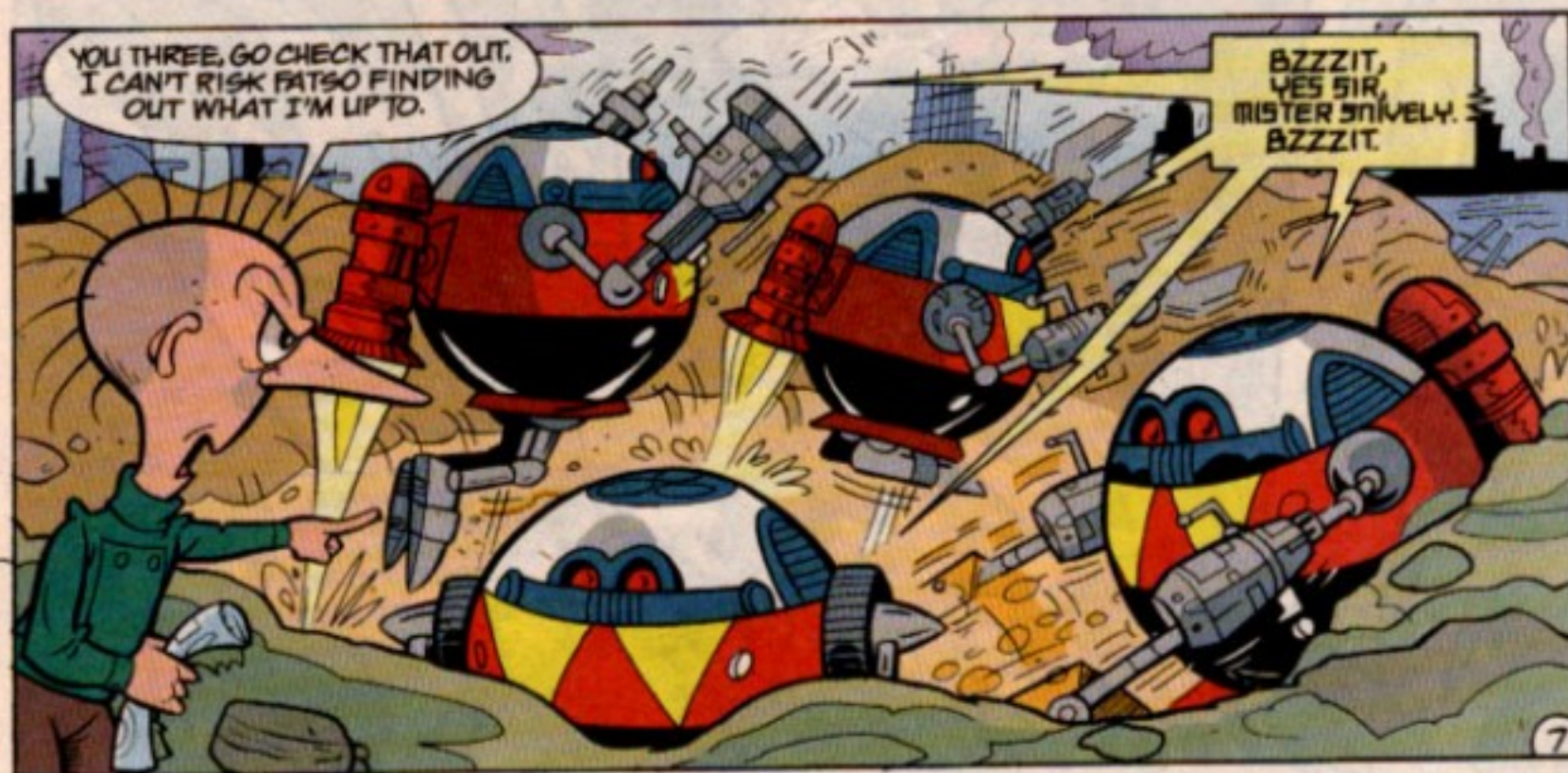
TUNNEL 3B LEADS ZTRAIGHT TO ZAT PART OF ZE CITEE.

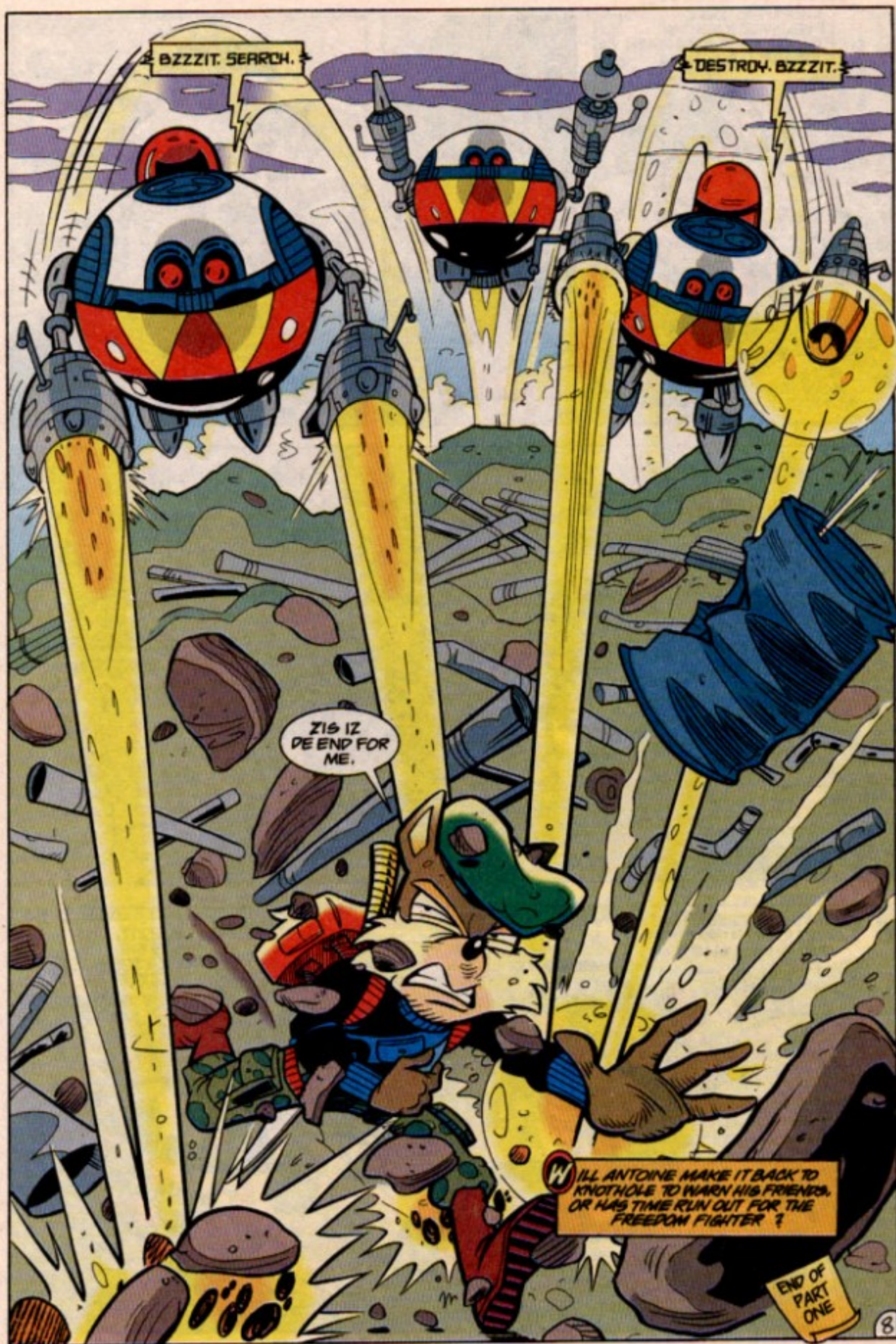
I MUST TELL ZOMEONE. NO, I CANNOT. TO TELL PRINCEZZ ZALLY OR ANYONE ELZE, WOULD MEAN GIVING AN INCOMPLETE REPORT, AND AZ MY FATHER TOLD ME ONCE, 'A REPORT IZ WORT NOTING IF EET IZ INCOMPLETE.'

I SHALL DO DIS ON MY OWN.









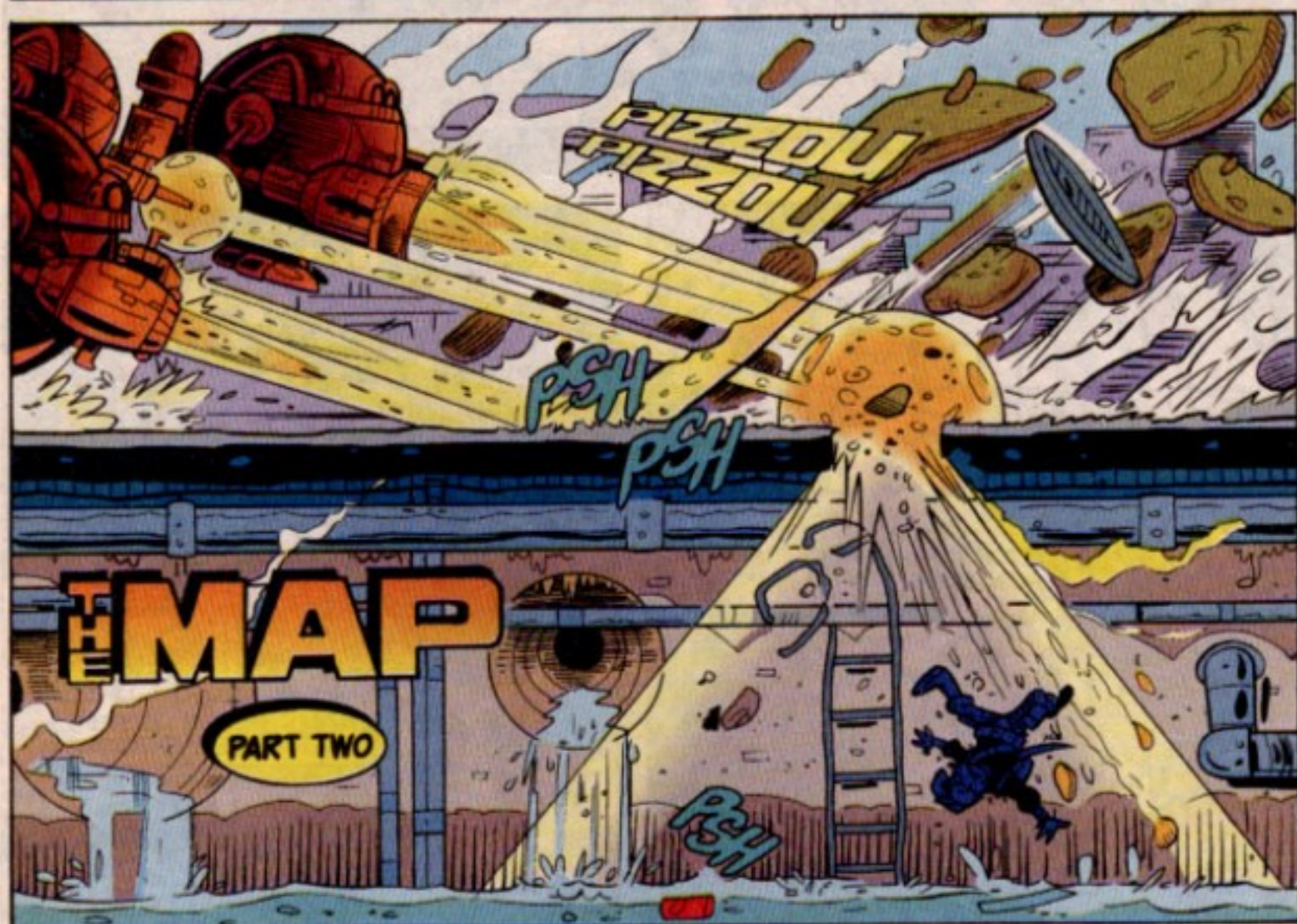
BZZZIT. SEARCH.

DESTROY. BZZZIT.

ZIS IZ
DE END FOR
ME.

WILL ANTOINE MAKE IT BACK TO
KNOTHOLE TO WARN HIS FRIENDS,
OR HAS TIME RUN OUT FOR THE
FREEDOM FIGHTER?

END OF
PART
ONE





PERHAPS UNCLE CHUCK SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS THING SLIME PROOF, NO?

I MUST REMIND MYSELF TO ZANK UNCLE CHUCK FOR HIS LOCATOR DEVICE. IF I CAN ONLY GET IT TO WORK.



BZZ IT.
WE HAVE A
LOCK ON TARGET.
BZZ IT.



ZONIC WOULD SAY
SOMETHING SNAPPY RIGHT
NOW, BUT I CAN NO TINK
OF ANYTHING.



BZZIT. TARGET LOCATED.
INITIATE SEARCH. BZZIT.

DO ZEEES
GUYZ EVA GIVE
UP?

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE. MUST...
WARN... OTHERS...



